In the CLAIMS

Please replace the claims currently on file with the following claims:

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for printing indicia on an external surface of cylindrical ~~ammunition~~shotshells having a case and a hull attached thereto and having an axis, comprising:

a plurality of inkjet print heads for spraying preprogrammed indicia on the ~~ammunition;~~shotshells;

a conveyor ~~for carrying~~having a plurality of ~~cylindrical ammunition thereon and~~rotatable spindles projecting therefrom for insertion into and engagement of an open end of the shotshell case for rotatable conveyance thereof and for rotating the cylindrical ~~ammunitions~~shotshells about the ~~ammunitions~~shotshell's axis while traversing the plurality of inkjet print heads for printing the preprogrammed indicia thereabout; ~~and~~

means for orienting each shotshell to present the open end of the case to the spindle for engagement thereon; and

a controller for causing the pre-programmed indicia to be sprayed on the ~~ammunitions~~shotshells as the ~~ammunition is~~shotshells are rotated.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein the inkjet print heads spray UV curable ink and further comprises:

a UV source for curing the UV-curable ink,

wherein the UV source is positioned in a housing through which the printed ~~ammunitions~~shotshells are conveyed by the conveyor.

3. (Original) The apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein the preprogrammed indicia is a camouflage pattern.

4. (Original) The apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein the controller is a computer.

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5. Cancelled

6. Cancelled

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus as described in claim 61 wherein the spindles are carried rotatably on the conveyor for rotating the shotshells thereon.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus as described in claim 61 further comprising at least one drive belt, driven in an opposite direction to a direction of the conveyor, and operable to engage the rotatable spindles causing rotation thereof.

9. (Original) The apparatus as described in claim 8 further comprising a idler belt positioned on an opposing side of the conveyor to the drive belt to aid in engagement of the drive belt with the spindles positioned therebetween.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus as described in claim 61 further comprising a rack and wherein the spindles further comprise pinions for engaging the rack and rotating the spindles therebetween.

11. (Original) The apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein a distal end of each of the plurality of spindles further comprises a magnet for engaging a metal hull and attached case thereon.

12. (Original) The apparatus as described in claim 1 wherein the plurality of inkjet printer heads further comprises:

at least one printer head for printing yellow;

at least one printer head for printing cyan; and

at least one printer head for printing magenta.

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13. (Currently amended) A method of applying indicia about an external surface of cylindrical ammunition comprising:

providing a plurality of ammunition;

orienting the ammunition for application of the indicia thereon; ~~and~~

applying the indicia to a substantial portion of an entire outer surface of the ammunition~~.~~;

rotating the ammunition about an axis while applying the indicia; and

controlling one or more ink jet print heads for applying the indicia to the substantial portion of the entire outer surface of the ammunition.

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. (Currently amended) The method as described in claim ~~14 further comprising controlling one or more ink jet print heads for applying a preprogrammed indicia to the substantial portion of the entire outer surface of the ammunition,~~ 13 wherein the ~~preprogrammed~~ indicia is a camouflage pattern.

17. (Original) The method as described in claim 13 further comprising:

pre-treating the substantial portion of the entire outer surface of the ammunition using a corona treatment; and

controlling one or more ink jet print heads for applying a ~~preprogrammed~~ the indicia to the substantial portion of the entire outer surface of the ammunition using a solvent-based ink.

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18. (Original) The method as described in claim 13 wherein the ammunition is a shotshell, each shotshell having a case and attached hull, the method further comprising:

orienting the shotshells so as to present an open end of the case to a conveyor spindle;

engaging the open end of the case with the conveyor spindle;

actuating the conveyor to cause the engaged shotshells to be rotatably passed adjacent a plurality of inkjet print heads;

actuating the inkjet print heads to spray ink for imparting the indicia about substantially the entire external surface of each shotshell; and

removing the shotshells from the conveyor.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18 wherein the inkjet ink is UV curable ink and following actuating the inkjet printer heads to impart the indicia, further comprising:

exposing the shotshells to a UV source for curing the ink sprayed thereon.

20. (Original) The method as described in claim 13 wherein the indicia printed on the ammunition is a camouflage pattern.

21. (Original) The method as described in claim 20 wherein the inkjet print heads are actuated by a controller, the controller being programmed with the camouflage pattern.

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22. (Original) The method as described in claim 13 further comprising:

applying the indicia to a heat transfer sleeve;

positioning the heat transfer sleeve over at least a portion of the external surface of the ammunition; and

applying sufficient heat to the heat transfer sleeve to cause the heat transfer sleeve to shrink and bond to the external surface of the ammunition.

23. (Original) The method as described in claim 20 further comprising:

applying non-glare ink to a portion of the ammunition left uncovered by the heat transfer sleeve.

24. (Original) The method as described in claim 20 wherein the indicia applied to the heat transfer sleeve is a camouflage pattern.

25. (Currently amended) A camouflaged ammunition comprising a substantially cylindrical outer surface,

wherein indicia comprising at least a camouflage pattern is applied to substantially the entire outer surface.

26. Cancelled

27. (Original) The camouflaged ammunition as described in claim 25 wherein the indicia comprises:

a camouflaged pattern covering a portion of the outer surface; and

a non-glare ink covering a remaining portion of the outer surface.

28. (Original) The camouflaged ammunition as described in claim 25 wherein the ammunition is a shotshell.

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In the CLAIMS

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for the conditional allowance of claims 6-12, 15-24, 26 and 27 if rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 6 and claim 5 as originally filed. Thus, amended claim 1 is claim 6 rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the intervening claims. Applicant believes that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance as are those claims which depend thereform.

Applicant has cancelled claims 5 and 6 as originally filed.

Applicant has amended claim 13 to include the subject matter of claims 14 and 15 as originally filed. Thus, amended claim 13 is claim 15 rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the intervening claims. Applicant believes that claim 13 is now in condition for allowance as are those claims which depend thereform.

Applicant has cancelled claims 14 and 15 as originally filed.

Applicant has amended claim 25 to include the subject matter of claim 26 as originally filed. Thus, amended claim 25 is claim 26 rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the intervening claims. Applicant believes that claim 25 is now in condition for allowance as are those claims which depend thereform.

Applicant has cancelled claim 26 as originally filed.

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